

later realized that things happen for a reason and that what happened to their family was predestined. It was at that moment that they made a vow to help others in a way that the school district was unable to help Takila, their daughter.

Thus, the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) was born in their hearts and minds. They became desperate parents who wanted to save other families from the pain and ridicule their family suffered.

Today, the Community Students Learning Center now has a great working relationship with the Holmes County School Board, Superintendent, teachers and staff. They have even been blessed with the opportunity to serve as a team monitor member for the MDE Office of Special Education where they have traveled across the state educating parents regarding their rights and laws as it relates to their child/children with special needs.

Throughout the difficult ordeals that Beulah faced, her husband, Leslie, was a "strong tower" for her. He encouraged her to move forward and allow God to direct her path. God has blessed their bud of an idea to blossom into a full blown, yet still growing, non-profit organization that is positively impacting the lives of many families. The idea began as an effort to assist at-risk students who could not pass the state mandated tests, but now the vision has expanded to include many more programs and services.

The Mission for the Community Students Learning Center is to promote community and educational change, by providing state-of-the-art leadership development and personal improvement opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) for their dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

IN MEMORY OF OV SMITH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the loss of my dear friend OV Smith, who died on March 14th at the age of 99. I had the pleasure of knowing OV for more than 30 years. We became friends while I served in the California State Assembly and she was working to educate members of the Assembly about the needs of persons with developmental disabilities.

OV Smith dedicated her life to caring for the developmentally disabled. For more than 40 years, she welcomed them into her home while also taking them to church on Sundays, traveling with them on cruises and other trips, and accompanying them to activities in the community. OV founded several organizations in Los Angeles. She helped these groups to initiate public policy through the legislative process and educate caregivers on how to care for and develop their clients.

In 1970, Ms. Smith founded OV's Willing Workers for the Mentally Retarded, which pro-

vides day care, social development and educational services to developmentally disabled persons. This was the first organization of its kind in California that provided extensive and comprehensive services.

She also founded the Society of California Care Home Operators (SOCCO), which trains caregivers and connects them with the legislative process so they can acquaint themselves with the law and become advocates for the developmentally disabled. Finally, OV helped found the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC), which contracts with the State of California to coordinate services for the developmentally disabled.

Her courage to confront the establishment, knowledge of the law, and commitment to initiate change gained the respect of lawmakers, agency officials, and the overall community. She had been recognized by many organizations and sought out for her insights. Her motto "These are God's people, and we are responsible for them" bespoke the true heart she put into advocating for people with developmental disabilities.

OV Smith will be sorely missed by everyone who was touched by her graciousness. We all benefitted from her commitment, vision, and caring heart. My thoughts and prayers are with all of her family and friends during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING DENNIS MARKOWITZ

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give the heartiest congratulations to Dennis I. Markowitz on being named Person of the Year by the Feasterville Business Association. This honor recognizes his many years of outstanding service to the Feasterville Business Association, as a motivator, officer and current treasurer. A tax accountant and founding partner in the Financial Group Plus Companies, he marks his 50th year as a tax accountant. Dennis Markowitz' many endeavors, both personal and professional, include his honorable service in the United States Army, and also as vice president of the Bucks-Mont Chapter of the Society of Tax and Accounting Partners and educator who has been recognized for his volunteer work by the U.S. International Revenue Service. Throughout his years of community service on many different levels, Dennis Markowitz has set an outstanding example for others to follow and this recognition comes with sincere wishes for a continuation of service and fellowship, health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I intended to vote "no", but was recorded

as having voted "yes", on H.R. 2824 (rollcall 141), which would overturn Reagan-era protections for streams and communities in Appalachia. I would like the record to reflect my strong opposition to H.R. 2824.

HONORING THE REDLINERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, the Redliners.

The Redliners is a bike club that was established in 1996. They share a strong family bond and chemistry, spreading across 12 states.

The Redliners' objectives are:

To bring together individuals who share the common interest of motorcycle riding;

To provide an organized environment around which its members may enjoy well-coordinated events without regards to politics, religion, race, sex or creed;

To encourage good riding habits, promote the interests of its members, keep members aware of motorcyclist rights and issues, and sponsor and participate in charitable events and/or affairs;

To foster a network of communication and a better understanding between various motorcycle and non-motorcycle enthusiast; and

To fulfill these objectives the chapter functions shall incorporate both social and information aspects.

The Redliners in Greenville, Mississippi chooses a foundation every year to sponsor a charity ride. They have done charity rides for the Fannie Lou Hamer Foundation, Boys and Girls Club and Our House, Inc.

The Redliners have participated in numerous community services activities, such as handing out candy at the Boys and Girls Club for Halloween. Also, Make A Wish Foundation contacted Redliners for 16 year old, Freddie Green, of Greenville, Mississippi, who is fighting Leukemia. Freddie's wish was to spend time with the Redliners and eat at a restaurant called Frost Top. The Redliners road motorcycles to Belzoni, Mississippi to meet Freddie as he was coming home from the hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. They brought Freddie to Greenville on the motorcycle and he was overjoyed.

Furthermore, the Redliners have adopted a highway in honor of their member, Victor Anderson, who is also known as "Red Angel". They cleaned up Highway 82 in his honor. The Redliners have done other things like, donating turkeys to nursing homes for Thanksgiving and participating in different toy drives. They are always looking for a way to give back to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Redliners for their dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ONGOING
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GREEK
AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS ON A
UNIFIED CYPRUS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the importance of the ongoing negotiations in Cyprus between Greek and Turkish Cypriots that would bring about a peaceful resolution to the dispute on a unified Cyprus. On February 24, 2014, Greek Cypriot negotiator, Andreas Mavroyiannis, and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart, Kudret Ozersay, resumed talks in what the United Nations has deemed as "substantive discussions." This is promising news and it is my hope that these talks will mark the first, new steps toward a final settlement that will achieve a unified Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus has endured a long history of ethnic and religious battles between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. While Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities remain divided, with the latter isolated from the international community, a unified Cyprus has much to offer to the region and global community. A peacefully unified Cyprus would see increased tourism, exchanges of close culture ties, expanded trade opportunities, and a new and stable source of energy. Additionally, a unified Cyprus would create a state and society that protects the rights of all its citizens and help establish a sound government that reflects its rightful place in Europe.

During a phone call with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President Barack Obama thanked the Prime Minister for his role in reviving negotiations. Turkey's leadership in bringing this conflict to an end is welcomed during this time of heightened intensity in the region. Any resolution agreed to should emulate the UN mission in Cyprus' declaration that a settlement "will be based on a bi-communal, bizonal federation with political equality." I ask my colleagues to join me in encouraging both parties to see past the roadblocks that have held back progress and redouble their efforts as they move forward on a solution. Likewise, I hope the Obama Administration will continue to use its influence to push for a swift resolution on the Cyprus question.

I stand with all Cypriots—in both communities—who seek to build a better Cyprus together.

HONORING PETER AND LISA
VERNIERO FOR THEIR PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated public service of Lisa and Peter Verniero, the 2014 honorees of the SAFE in Hunterdon Evening of Awareness.

I have known the Vernieros for a generation and I can attest that their recognition as the SAFE in Hunterdon Evening of Awareness honorees is well-earned. Together, Lisa and Peter have a remarkable tenure of service to

Hunterdon County and the State of New Jersey.

Lisa is a devoted advocate for those who benefit from the mission of SAFE in Hunterdon. She is a thoughtful, caring and determined leader who has helped craft and sustain SAFE in Hunterdon as well as a generous benefactor, fundraiser and organizer to help provide the resources for this success.

Peter is a public servant whose tenure as New Jersey State Attorney General and Justice of the State Supreme Court was marked with dedication to serving all of our residents, including those most in need. His efforts to protect children and victims of crime and sexual abuse were landmark examples of good judgment, important public policy and justice under the law. Peter also recently served on the New Jersey SAFE Task Force on Gun Protection, Addiction, Mental Health and Families that examined the root causes of violence and made recommendations to help improve the situation.

Lisa and Peter are committed to doing their part to break the cycle of abuse and empower survivors, their families and all victims of crime through the support networks that have helped construct. Their advocacy is just one example of the fine public servants who support SAFE in Hunterdon and the community of compassion that exists for those who need it most.

IN SUPPORT OF "NATIONAL DE-
VELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 27th observance of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Developmental disabilities may be visible or invisible and range from physical impairment that involves vision or mobility to those conditions that affect cognitive functions related to how the brain processes information or how someone learns.

Developmental disabilities include: autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other developmental delays have increased, requiring more health and education services.

Everyone is on a continuum that moves us from ability to disability in one aspect or another. Through age, accidents, or illness, the healthy can become disabled.

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas that are recognized in children from birth until age 22.

The effects of development disabilities will last a lifetime.

From birth to 5 years, a child should reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, act and move.

Tracking a child's development for signs that they are not reaching key milestones in development is critical for early diagnosis and interventions that can help children.

People with developmental disabilities have problems with language, mobility, learning, self-help, and independent living.

About one in six children in the U.S. have one or more developmental disabilities or other developmental delays.

A Center for Disease Control study of 119,367 children aged 3–17 found that boys had a higher prevalence for a certain developmental disabilities when compared with girls.

In the CDC study, parents or legal guardians were asked if their child had: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), autism, blindness, cerebral palsy, moderate to profound hearing loss, intellectual disability, learning disorders, seizures, stuttering/stammering, and other developmental delay.

Hispanic children had the lowest prevalence of developmental disabilities when compared with non-Hispanic white and black children.

Prevalence of any developmental disability increased from 12.84 percent to 15.04 percent over the past 12 years. Autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other developmental delays increased, whereas hearing loss showed a significant decline.

When developmental disabilities go misdiagnosed, undiagnosed, or untreated the capacity of our nation's children to reach their full potential is undermined.

The prevalence of any Developmental Disability in 1997–2008 was 13.87 percent. Prevalence of learning disabilities was 7.66 percent; prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was 6.69 percent; prevalence of other developmental delay was 3.65 percent; and, prevalence of autism was 0.47 percent.

Over the last 12 years: Developmental Disabilities has increased 17.1 percent—that's about 1.8 million more children with DDs in 2006–2008 compared to a decade earlier; prevalence of autism increased 289.5 percent; prevalence of ADHD increased 33.0 percent; and, prevalence of hearing loss decreased 30.9 percent.

In addition, data from this study showed that: Males had twice the prevalence of any Developmental Disabilities than females and more specifically had higher prevalence of ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, stuttering/stammering and other Developmental Disabilities; Hispanic children had lower prevalence of several disorders compared to non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black children, including ADHD and learning disabilities; Non-Hispanic black children had higher prevalence of stuttering/stammering than non-Hispanic white children; and Children from families with income below the federal poverty level had a higher prevalence of Developmental Disorders.

Mr. Speaker, much progress has been made in the 27 years since President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

But there is still much work to be done to ensure our fellow citizens with such disabilities have the resources and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.

HONORING CLINTON (MS) ALUM-
NAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA
THETA SORORITY, INCOR-
PORATED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible group of